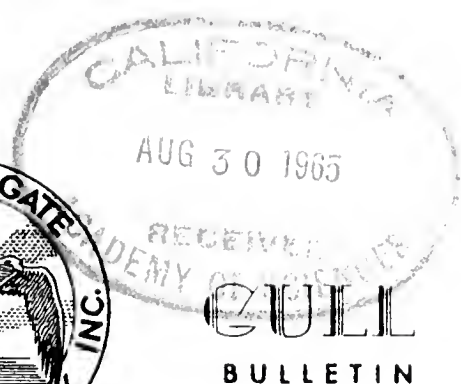


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THE  
MONTHLY



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Volume 47

Berkeley, Calif.

September 1965

Number 9

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### PICNIC SUPPER AT CANYON RANCH SEPT. 11

The September meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be a picnic supper at Audubon Canyon Ranch on **Saturday, September 11**, at 5:30 p.m. The catered picnic supper will be \$2.50 per person (\$1.50 for children under 12). Reservations must be made by **Monday, September 6**, because the caterer must be notified. Please make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail them to Miss Marjorie Atkinson, 4 Willow Lane, Kensington, Calif. 94707. A reservation form is printed at the end of this *Gull*.

Come early and look for fall migrants in Bolinas Lagoon. Note to new members: Canyon Ranch is in Marin County — facing Bolinas Lagoon on State Highway 1 north of Stinson Beach.

### FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, September 4**, Fort Baker and Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County for fall migration of water birds. We shall first visit various points in the Fort Baker area where terns may be seen. The second part of the trip will take us to Rodeo Lagoon either by car or on foot, depending on the weather. So that cars can be consolidated for the first part of the trip we must meet **PROMPTLY at 7:45 a.m.** in the parking area just beyond (west) of the Fort Cronkhite tunnel. Leaders: Laurence Curl, 526-7004 and Valeria DaCosta, 931-5257.

**Wednesday, September 8**, the above trip will be repeated. Meet at same place at 10 a.m. Leader: Valeria DaCosta, 931-5257.

**Sunday, September 19**, Bay Farm Island and Alameda for the fall migration of shorebirds. Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to Lincoln Park, High Street and Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. Take No. 51 bus from Berkeley or Oakland, or Bus D from San Francisco. Bring lunch if you plan to stay through the period of maximum movement of birds. Leader: Elsie Roemer, 522-0941.

**Tuesday, September 21**, the above trip will be repeated. Leader: Elsie Roemer, 522-0941.

**Saturday, September 25**, north side of Mt. Tamalpais for combination bird and botany trip. Meet in the center of Fairfax in the public parking lot at 9 a.m. We shall then caravan about two miles to the starting point. We shall hike across a meadow to see lark sparrows, flycatchers, and blue-

birds, plus a variety of flora, and then hike from Bon Tempe to Lake Lagunitas for lunch, and return. Round trip will be  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 miles. Leaders: Patricia Triggs, MO 4-8502, and L. R. Leinbach, 526-7649.

**Wednesday, September 15,** to Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. Meet at 9 a.m. at the park gate on Skyline Blvd. near Totterdell St. (Totterdell is between Ascot and Castle Drive.) If without private transportation, be at the Altenheim, 1720 Mac Arthur Blvd., between 8 and 8:30, where transportation will be provided. From San Francisco Terminal take the A/C Transit bus N at 7:50 a.m. In the East Bay, buses 15, 34, and 57 pass the Altenheim. Bring lunch. Leaders: Marshall Jencks, 534-9353, and Violet Homem, 655-8886.

**Saturday, October 2,** boat trip off the coast of Monterey. The boat leaves Sam's Wharf in Monterey at **9 a.m.** and returns 3 p.m. This is the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the coast of Monterey. Black-footed albatross, pink-footed, New Zealand and sooty shearwaters, black and ashy petrel, pomarine, parasitic and long-tailed jaegers and skua have been seen on previous trips. A group of expert birders from Los Angeles will join us. A no-host dinner with the Los Angeles birders is planned for Saturday evening at the Bamboo Garden Restaurant, 2030 Fremont, on Highway 1 in Monterey. Boat fare: \$4.50 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail to Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109, with a *self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed*. Deadline for reservations is **September 15**. Leaders: Russell E. Wilson, Arnold Small, Los Angeles; Guy McCaskie, San Diego; and Rich Stallcup, Oakland. Some of the birders are planning to stay in the Monterey and Carmel area for the weekend. Although no scheduled field trips have been planned after the Saturday boat trip, here are some of the areas where birds and birders may be found: The Coast Guard Pier in Monterey, the mouth of the Carmel River for Baird's and possibly pectoral sandpipers, & Moss Landing north of Salinas on Route 1.

Plan now for your Thanksgiving birding. Place: Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northern California near the Oregon border. What to expect: geese, ducks, bald eagles, northern shrikes, and possibly snow and ice. Hunting season will be on, so make your overnight reservations early. Check your travel guides for motels in Tulelake, Calif., and Klamath Falls, Oregon. We shall meet Friday and Saturday morning, November 26-27. More details will be in *October Gull* — MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

### **FREEWAY THREATENS POPE BEACH MARSH AT TAHOE**

A marsh holds a special attraction for the nature enthusiast. It is somewhat inaccessible, holding its activities apart from the eyes of the casual observer. To penetrate the activities of marsh waterfowl requires ingenuity and patience. Various techniques, ranging from blinds to rafts, have been used to gain familiarity with the inhabitants. Whatever the method, patience is a requirement, for their habitat is not easily entered without

immediate detection. The large numbers of migratory waterfowl nesting in marsh areas add to the problem of observation, for they are a wary group that will take flight and give warning to other birds at the slightest disturbance of their environment.

This sensitivity to disturbance and the unique place that marsh areas have in the nesting and breeding habits of migratory waterfowl prompted me to bring to your attention a marsh area that may soon be destroyed.

In truth, though, this article goes beyond the presentation of a marsh habitat and presents the inevitable questions that we find ourselves struggling with in this era of population increase and progress. These are the questions of how much are we willing to destroy for immediate gains, and what are the values of these gains when measured against the needs of posterity? A marsh area that lies in the path of progress and whose future will be determined by our answers to these questions is the Pope Beach Marsh in the California mountains.

Pope Beach Marsh occupies a unique area of 191 acres within the Lake Tahoe Basin. It comprises a small portion of the seventy miles of shoreline of Lake Tahoe. It is near the populous area of the lake called the South Shore. Grey, snow-tipped mountains loom above the marsh, and the still crystal-clear water of the lake laps against the sandy stretch of beach separating the marsh from that large lake. Compared to the 193 square miles of surface area of Lake Tahoe the marsh is but a handful of still water. However, it is a unique water area, for it is the last remaining lowland marsh within the Lake Tahoe Basin, and it is not presently being planned as the site for a motel or a casino.

It is safe from commercial development as it is within an area that is under control of the United States Forest Service. National Forest extends from the marsh and includes Pope Beach, Camp Richardson, Kiva Beach, Baldwin Beach and the Fallen Leaf Lake areas. Nearby, the 41,000 acre Desolation Primitive Area rests inviolate and secure.

Pope Beach Marsh is not secure. For even though in 1950 the United States Forest Service designated it as a wild bird area in their land-use program, it is in the path of progress—in this case the progress of movement, transportation and highways. The California Department of Highways has on the drawing board a projected freeway that will extend through the Pope Beach Marsh. Before arriving at the marsh this freeway will follow the Truckee River course through a meadow lowland, destroying fish and waterfowl habitat for one mile. It will then plunge into the marsh and advance along the west side of Lake Tahoe. A possible monument to our fetish concern with ease and comfort may be a bridge across Emerald Bay.

The natural habitat surrounding Lake Tahoe will be disrupted by any highway development that enters it. But its greatest effect will be evident in the Pope Beach Marsh. To some members of the Department of Highways and local merchants concerned only with movement of people, the marsh may stand for just a "bit of swamp." But to migratory waterfowl, native wildlife and concerned conservationists this represents a vital area of natural habitat. If Pope Beach Marsh is adorned with a segment of freeway all we will have is a place to take our children and show them what a



freeway can mean to the nesting and breeding activities of migratory waterfowl. We will have to tell them what a natural, undisturbed habitat looks like. Today you can take them to this marsh and patiently wait for the waterfowl to become accustomed to you and continue their activities. And an early morning walk, with the first glint of sunlight between you and the forest bordering the marsh will reveal the variety of summer residents. Birds commonly seen during the summer months include the Common Loon, Grebe, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Pintail and Mallard Duck, Common Merganser, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher and a variety of Blackbirds and Swallows. Killdeer, Sandpiper and Snipe are also observed. In the forest habitat bordering the marsh a variety of residents ranging from Mountain Chickadee and Nuthatch to Western Tanager are prevalent. In the summer of 1964 a Great Gray Owl was observed swooping silently through the trees to snatch its prey. Among the numerous habitats available in the Lake Tahoe area, Pope Beach offers perhaps the greatest variety of birds in a single locale.

A recent survey of the marsh area revealed a stable habitat that is heavily used by migratory waterfowl. The early spring months are the best time to watch the arriving birds. With the reeds dormant and the water areas clear, the nesting and breeding activities of the Canadian Geese are easily observed. An island surrounded by marsh gives the geese the required security and privacy, and even though State Highway 89 passes close to the forest rimming the marsh, human intrusion of the habitat is rare.

The range of mammals that inhabit the marsh area is not as varied as the bird population, but it is equally interesting. Muskrat may be seen in the clear marsh during the early spring. They are easily approached and with only a momentary glance at your silent form will resume rooting activity on the marsh bottom. A walk in the forest bordering the marsh will bring you to numerous "kitchen middens." These bare cone and chip clusters that are the work of the Chickaree or Douglas Squirrel lie at the base of most of the Jeffrey Pines. This spring I observed the playful activity of four young pine martens as they bounded among the rocks. In the winter they are far from playful and pursue the chickaree through the trees in a deadly game of prey and attacker.

In the silence of winter you can take your children to this habitat and show them evidence of the ecology and the balance of nature of this area. But in the tomorrows of years to come you may be able only to drive through the marsh. You will perhaps be too intent upon the swift flight of your car to notice the marsh or the questions of your children about the animals living in and around it.

The manner of changing a quiet natural area such as the Pope Beach Marsh into a segment of roadbed is unobtrusive, often silent. I have inquired about the proposed route through the Marsh since the poorly publicized hearings were held. I am told there is nothing to discuss. It is no longer open to discussion. The route is selected, the maps are drawn, but no date has been set for construction to begin. And so, in reality, the matter is not closed. A variety of factors demand that the voices of conservationists

be expressed and heard. An alternate route is possible. It would follow the route of the present State Highway 89, creating a scenic road rather than a freeway. Such a course would not destroy a presently undisturbed habitat.

Our society must soon choose between the values of unmolested natural areas and freeway planning and construction that is oblivious of the unique virtues in seemingly unimportant "bits of marsh." It is these bits and pieces of unmolested marsh, meadow and forest habitats that provide a vital, concrete association between man and nature. In the detached and mechanical manner in which freeway routes progress from plan to reality the intrinsic human value of respect for nature is often forgotten.

Pope Beach Marsh and the entire Lake Tahoe area may no longer be open to discussion. The plans and maps are perhaps completed. But if such areas are lost it will be only because we failed to express our opinions strongly enough.

This is an era of sensitivity. Organizations large and small, government and private, are sensitive to the written and vocal opinions of the public. The success of the civil rights movement is resulting greatly from the ability of the individuals involved to express their opinions to sensitive areas. Success in establishing human rights will not come only because they were right. There was never a valid argument to deny this.

Conservation today needs less energy directed in developing arguments that are right and more energy focused in reaching sensitive areas that are responsible for making decisions that will affect its future.

Decisions that will direct the future of Pope Beach Marsh as well as the Lake Tahoe Basin will be made by national and state legislators who are sensitive to your opinions. The Governor of California is sensitive to your opinions. Mr. Edward Cliff, Chief of the United States Forest Service, Washington, D.C. is sensitive to your opinions. (The Forest Service has made no statement concerning Pope Beach Marsh.)

But the first decision must be yours. You must examine the values and decide what is worth sacrificing for our immediate comfort and what is important enough to preserve for the many generations that will come after us. From your decision and action may come the enthusiasm and vitality to create a conservation movement that will reach sensitive areas. A "bit of marshland" in the California mountains may remain unmolested to be visited with the curiosity and wonder of young people generations from now.

Or, a freeway instead of a scenic road may be built. You must decide.  
— BRIAN HAYES, Box 253, Al Tahoe, Calif.

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**South Peninsula Coast** — For fifty members and friends of Golden Gate Audubon Society the weather was perfect and the birds unusual on the July 10th field trip led by Ted Chandik, Science Instructor at the Palo Alto Junior Museum. We expected to see the murrelets but the common loons in breeding plumage were a treat for many. While we were lunching by the sea two wandering tattlers accompanied us just a few

yards away. The (introduceed) red-legged partridges had gone under cover by the time we arrived in their area. We had, though, been well rewarded earlier by our leader's guidance to the seldom seen grasshopper sparrows. They were in great evidence among the cows in the field. One in particular really accomodated all of us by sitting on a fence post uttering his insect-like song. The many highlights of the day began soon after we met at the Princeton Pier when our leader, Ted Chandik, and Marie Mans produced a single black brant and a lone female harlequin duck. A repeat performance by the birds cannot be guaranteed next year at the same time but we will repeat the same trip. Do come and join us. — MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA

**Echo Summit, northern Sierra** — A group of 36 birders turned up for a sunny weekend July 24-25, at Echo Summit. On Saturday everybody took a three-mile hike and rode on the boat. In the afternoon Adrene Lake was visited and on Sunday everybody hiked into Benwood Meadow. We observed about 60 species of birds. Green-tailed towhees were very numerous this year. The hermit warbler, Wilson's, orange-crowned, Nashville, and MacGillivray's were seen. There were numerous flycatchers, fox sparrows, house wrens, etc. Two red-tailed hawks were seen attacking a golden eagle, and best of all Scott Terrill spotted a bald eagle flying across Echo Lake. The Alpine Club were very gracious hosts and served several delicious and bountiful meals. — PAT TRIGGS

#### OBSERVATIONS

On July 11 Oliver Allen heard a flammulated owl in the fir forest at Fuller Lake (elev. 5500') which is in the Sierra near State Highway 20, nine miles northwest of Emigrant Gap.

On July 27 Inez Troxell's Tuesday birding group found a hermit warbler foraging in the pines on the West Ridge Trail in Redwood Regional Park, Oakland. Phyllis Zweigart also found it on the same trail July 30 and two of them on August 3. On the latter date a western wood pewee, feeding young, chased a hermit warbler into bright sunlight which illuminated his yellow head and revealed a slight trace of black on his throat. His white outer tail feathers were clearly visible in flight.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

During the past year there have been nine field trips for the children. These were led by Dr. Albert Boles in Piedmont in November, Miss Bertha Underhill to Tilden Park in October, Mrs. Valeria DaCosta in Golden Gate Park in November, Mrs. Janet Niekelsburg in January at Ocean Beach, Mrs. Roberta Long in February to Golden Gate Park, Miss Phyllis Lindley in March to Strawberry Canyon in Berkeley, Miss Linda Krause to Fleishhaefer Zoo in April, Mr. Paul Covell at the Rotary Natural Science Center at Lake Merritt in May, and Mrs. Niekelsburg to Canyon Ranch in June. Unfortunately we cannot estimate how many children attended because some of the leaders did not take enrollment. Notwithstanding the lack of statistics, we intend to continue the field trips at least for another year, by which time we feel that it can be determined whether enough children attend to make the project worth carrying on. I wish to thank the leaders for their generous contribution of time to this project.



Twelve articles on various subjects have been written for the children and published in the *Gull*. Once again we do not know whether or not these reached the children, for we have no direct response from them, although the adults seem to have enjoyed the articles. We plan to discontinue these in the *Gull* next year, substituting for them a quarterly for the children. This we hope to issue in a format more attractive to young people.

In addition to these activities, the Education Committee is proud to report the success of the Audubon Nature Training Program conducted by Miss Phyllis Lindley at the Aquatic Park in Berkeley. This program was sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society and supported through the generosity of the Rosenberg Foundation. Training courses were offered to different groups throughout the year. These groups were made up of Elementary Teachers, Student Teachers, Recreation Workers, Camp Counselors, Day Camp Leaders and Youth Group Leaders. Your chairman attended two of these meetings of different groups and was most favorably impressed by the quality of the work being carried on by Miss Lindley. — JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Miss Ferna H. Parkans; from Berkeley, Mrs. Orwell Logan, Mr. Carter W. Roberts, Mr. Kennett M. Sanderson, Miss Lois Shafer, Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Thomas; from El Cerrito, Miss Mary Merlin; from Oakland, Mr. Paul P. Hamlin, Miss Gertrude M. Jessup; from Orinda, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Chenowith; from Piedmont, Miss Betty Z. Siseo; from Pleasant Hill, Mr. C. R. Cortsen; from San Francisco, Mr. Peter H. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Barefoot, Mrs. Amy L. Ergut, Mr. Jay J. Levine, Mrs. Ruth Irvine Neveau, Mr. Henry Robert, Sp/5 Barbara C. Walling; from San Leandro, Jack L. Mann, Jr. — MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman*

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO CANYON RANCH

Gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:;  
*In Memory of:* *Gift of:*  
Mary Turner Underhill ..... Kathleen Pye  
Gus Miller ..... Aileen Pierson, W. S. Pieher, Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Davies,  
Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather  
Eve Foree ..... Aileen Pierson  
Dr. John Roy Ranson ..... Mr. and Mrs. G. D. McCallum  
Walter Hildebrand ..... Elizabeth C. Hall and California Alpine Club  
William Horsfall ..... California Alpine Club  
Lemuel W. Allen ..... Mrs. Herbert S. Henderson  
L. O. B. Lindstrom ..... Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Watt  
John H. Moran ..... Patricia L. Triggs  
— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson  
4 Willow Lane, Kensington, Calif. 94707  
Enclosed is my check for \$..... to cover ..... reservations  
for the G.G.A.S. picnic supper on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Canyon Ranch  
Name..... Address.....



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1965

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SEPTEMBER

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Editor .....	Mrs. Violet Homem .....	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland	11 655-8886
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Canyon Ranch Fund Raising .....	Mrs. Myra Browne.....	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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